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Dear Admiral Hillenkoetter:

2 With reference to your memorandum of May 21st to the Secretary, the Department is willing to accede to your request because of the pressing personnel situation which you describe and on the basis of the understanding set forth herein.

During the discussions leading to the formulation of the NIA collection directive, it was the position of the Department and, I believe, of the War and Navy Departments as well, that the administration of the collection personnel must of necessity remain a function of the Departments which they serve, while the coordination of field collection on behalf of the NIA would be assigned to the Ambassador or Minister at each post because of his seniority as the representative of the President. It was agreed by all that the field representatives of each Department, namely the Foreign Service and the military and naval attaches, must continue to report to and receive instructions solely from their own Departments. Accordingly, the Department believes that the determination of the effectiveness of the execution of the collection directive, and such questions as added work load, if any, and the decrease or increase in the duplication of work among the departmental representatives, for example, are matters for each Department to assess and report upon, with such reports passed to the Central Intelligence Group in Washington. In his capacity as Chief of Mission and as the personal representative of the President, the Ambassador or Minister normally communicates with other agencies of the Government through the Department of State.

The

Rear Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington 25, D. C.

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The Department has already received one or two reports from Chiefs of Mission reporting progress on the many instructions transmitted to them regarding their duties as coordinators of intelligence activities at their posts. We shall see that these and subsequent reports are collected and transmitted promptly to the Central Intelligence Group.

There would seem to be serious danger that the foregoing principles would be abrogated if, over a period of time, a practice were made of Central Intelligence Group personnel visiting Foreign Service posts for the purpose of supervising the details of any of their operations. However, it is recognized that some advantage to future planning might accrue from an examination of the problems which may have arisen initially out of the collection directives. Therefore, because of the fact that the personnel is now available and will not later be available, and on the understanding that this does not constitute a precedent, the Department is agreeable to such surveys as you have requested being made at this time.

Mr. Louis Mundy, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, Room 304, 515 22nd Street, is hereby designated as the point of contact with the Central Intelligence Group to facilitate the arrangement of the necessary administrative details in connection with the proposed trips.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

William A. Eddy

SA-E:WPAmstrong:mhm:  
June 2, 1947

cc: FC

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